Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An image copying device, comprising:

a reading portion that reads in an image formed on one surface of a document;

a storage portion that stores image data that is read in by the reading portion;

an image forming portion that forms an image on a recording medium based on the image data stored in the storage portion;

a reading control portion that provides control such that, when a plurality of documents having images formed on both sides thereof are to be read by the reading portion, images formed on one surfaces of the documents are read in sequentially and are stored sequentially in the storage portion, and then, after the reading in of the one surfaces of the documents is completed, images on the other surfaces of the documents are read in sequentially and are stored sequentially in the storage portion; and

image forming control portion that reads out, from the storage portion, image data for the one surfaces of the documents and the corresponding image data of the other surfaces of the documents, that controls the image forming portion to form images sequentially on the recording medium based on the image data, and that causes the start of the forming of images on the recording medium by the image forming portion before the reading in of all of the other surfaces of the documents by the reading portion has been completed.

2. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for each document, the image forming control portion sets, into a pair of image data, image data for one surface of ~~each~~ the document and image data for the other surface of the ~~subject~~ document, which is stored in the storage portion, and forms an image based on the image data for the one surface of the document on one surface of a recording medium and an

image based on the image data for the other surface of the ~~subject~~ document on another surface of the recording medium.

3. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming control portion performs control in such a manner that, after the images on the one surfaces of all the documents has been read in by the reading portion, the reading of the other surfaces and the forming of images onto the recording medium by the image forming portion are executed in parallel with each other.

4. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming control portion performs control in such a manner that the forming of images onto the recording medium by the image forming portion is started after the reading of the other surfaces of the documents has started and when image data for the other surface of at least one document has been stored in the storage portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming control portion ~~determines an estimated value of the~~estimates a time ~~required~~at which ~~until~~ the reading in of the other surfaces of all of the documents by the reading portion ~~has ended~~will end and ~~an estimated value of the~~estimates a time ~~required until~~at which image forming based on image data for both surfaces of all of the documents by the image forming portion ~~has ended~~will end, and offsets, based on the estimated ~~values~~times, the start time of image forming by the image forming portion with respect to the start time of the reading of the other surfaces of the documents by the reading portion in such a manner that the end time of the reading of the other surfaces of all of the documents is earlier than the end time of image forming based on the image data for all of the documents.

6. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein image forming based on image data for the other surface of a particular document by

the image forming portion is performed before image forming based on the one surface of the ~~subject~~ particular document; and

the image forming control portion ~~determines an estimated value of the~~estimates a time ~~required until~~at which the reading in of the other surface of the document by the reading portion ~~has ended~~will end and ~~an estimated value of the~~estimates a time ~~required until~~at which the image forming based on image data for the other surface of the particular document ~~has ended~~ will end, and offsets, based on the estimated values, the start time of image forming of the other surface of the particular document by the image forming portion with respect to the start time of the reading of the other surface of the ~~subject~~ particular document, in such a manner that the end time of the reading of the other surface of the particular document is earlier than the end time of image forming based on the image data of the other surface of the particular document.

7. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein image forming based on image data for the one surface of a particular document by the image forming portion is performed before image forming based on the other surface of the particular ~~subject~~ document; and

the image forming control portion ~~determines an estimated value of the~~estimates a time ~~required until~~at which the reading in of the other surface of the particular document by the reading portion ~~has ended~~will end and ~~an estimated value of the~~estimates a time ~~required until~~at which the image forming based on image data for both surfaces of the particular document ~~has ended~~ will end, and offsets, based on the estimated values, the start time of image forming for the one surface of the particular document by the image forming portion with respect to the start time of the reading of the ~~both surfaces~~ other surface of the particular document, in such a manner that the end time of the reading of the other surface of

the particular document is earlier than the end time of image forming based on the image data of both surfaces of the particular document.

8. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein: the reading in of the other surface of a particular document and the image forming based on the image data for the other surface of the particular document are performed in parallel; and

the image forming control portion temporally stops the operation of the image forming portion when an amount of image data for the other surface of the particular document that is to be formed by the image forming portion and that is stored in the storage portion is smaller than a reference value before the reading in of the other surface of the particular document by the reading portion has completed.

9. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the reading in of the other surface of a particular document and the image forming based on the image data for the other surface of the particular document are performed in parallel; and

the reading control portion controls the operation of the reading portion in such a manner that the reading in of the other surface of a next document ~~next to the subject document~~ starts after the image forming of the other surface of the particular ~~subject~~ document by the image forming portion has ended.

10. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the documents include at least a first document and a last document different from the first document, the documents being arranged in a stack in a predetermined order

from the first document to the last document, a page unit being defined by each surface of each document,

the reading control portion controls the reading portion to sequentially read in the one surfaces of the documents ~~are sequentially read in by the reading portion~~ in an order the same as the predetermined order ~~in which the documents are arranged~~, to thereby read in the one surfaces of the documents from the one surface of the first document to the one surface of the last document in sucession, and to store data for the one surfaces of all the documents ~~is stored~~ in the storage portion, and controls the reading portion to sequentially read in the other surfaces of the documents ~~are sequentially read in by the reading portion~~ in another order opposite to the predetermined order ~~in which the documents are arranged~~, to thereby read in the other surfaces of the documents from the other surface of the last document to the other surface of the first document in succession, and to store data for the other surfaces ~~is stored~~ in the storage portion; and

the image forming control portion performs control in such a manner that image data for the one surfaces of the documents that is stored in the storage portion and image data for the other surfaces of the documents that is stored in the storage portion is read out alternately in page units and images are formed by the image forming portion, and in such a manner that image data for the one surfaces is read out in an order opposite to the order in which the image data for the one surfaces of the documents have been read in by the reading portion so that the one ~~surface for~~ surface of one document, which has been read in before the one surface of another document, is read out ~~before~~ after the one surface of the ~~another~~ other document is read out ~~that has been read in before the one surface for the subject document~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the documents include at least a first document and a last document different from the first document, the documents being arranged in a stack in a predetermined order from the first document to the last document, a page unit being defined by each surface of each document,

the reading control portion controls the reading portion to sequentially read in the one surfaces of the documents ~~are sequentially read in by the reading portion~~ in an order opposite ~~to an~~ to the predetermined order ~~in which the documents are arranged~~, to thereby read in the one surfaces of the documents from the one surfaces of the last document to the one surface of the first document in succession, and to store data for the one surfaces of all the documents ~~is stored~~ in the storage portion, and controls the reading portion to sequentially read in the other surfaces of the documents ~~are sequentially read in by the reading portion~~ in the order ~~the same as~~ opposite to the predetermined order ~~in which the documents are arranged~~ and to store data for the other surfaces ~~is stored~~ in the storage portion; and

the image forming control portion performs control in such a manner that image data for the one surfaces of the documents that is stored in the storage portion and image data for the other surfaces of the documents that is stored in the storage portion is read out alternately in page units and images are formed by the image forming portion, and in such a manner that image data for the ~~other~~ one surfaces is read out in an order ~~opposite to~~ the same as the order in which the image data for the one surfaces of the documents have been read in by the reading portion so that the ~~other~~ one surface for one document, which has been read in before the one surface of another document, is read out before the ~~other~~ one surface of the ~~another~~ other document is read out ~~that has been read in before the one surface for the subject document~~.

12. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image data stored in the storage portion is deleted after the image forming for the image data has been completed by the image forming portion.

13. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storage portion is provided with:

a first storage area that stores image data for one surfaces of the documents; and

a second storage area that stores image data for the other surfaces of the documents, the first and second storage areas being independent from each other,

wherein image data for the other surface of one document that has been newly read in by the reading portion is stored in the second storage area by being overwritten onto image data which has been already stored in the second storage area and for which image forming by the image forming portion has ended.

14. (Currently Amended) The image copying device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the image data is stored in the second storage area in the unit of one page, and image data for the other surface of ~~one~~ a particular document that has been stored in the second storage area is overwritten by image data for the other surface of a next document that is read in by the reading portion next to the ~~subject~~ particular document.

15. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 14, wherein image data for the other surface of each document is prohibited from being stored in the first storage area and image data for the one surface of each document is prohibited from being stored in the second storage area.

16 (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 13 wherein the second storage area is set to have a capacity for storing image data that is less than that of the first storage area.

17 (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising: a verification portion that checks, upon receipt of a copy instruction, available capacities of the first storage area and the second storage area,

wherein the reading by the reading portion is prohibited when the available capacity of the first storage area is less than a predetermined first amount or when the available capacity of the second storage area is less than a predetermined second amount.

18. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the reading by the reading portion is started when the verification portion has checked that the available capacity in each of the first storage area and the second storage area is larger than or equal to the capacity of image data to be read from at least one document.

19. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a compression portion that compresses the image data before the image data is stored in either one of the first storage area and the second storage area.

20. (Original) The image copying device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming portion is provided with a double-sided print portion that is capable of forming images on both sides of a recording medium.

21. (Original) An image copying device, comprising:

a reading portion that reads in an image formed on one surface of a document;

a storage portion that stores image data that is read in by the reading portion;

an image forming portion that forms an image on a recording medium based on the image data stored in the storage portion; and

a controller that provides control such that, when a plurality of documents having images formed on both sides thereof are to be read by the reading portion, images formed on one surfaces of the documents are read in sequentially and are stored sequentially in the storage portion, and then, after the reading in of the one surfaces of the documents is

completed, images on the other surfaces of the documents are read in sequentially and are stored sequentially in the storage portion, and that reads out, from the storage portion, image data for the one surfaces of the documents and the corresponding image data of the other surfaces of the documents, that controls the image forming portion to form images sequentially on the recording medium based on the image data, and that causes the start of the forming of images on the recording medium by the image forming portion before the reading in of all of the other surfaces of the documents by the reading portion has been completed.

22. (New) the image copying device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a supply tray that is configured to receive the documents stacked thereon in a stacking direction;

a discharge tray that is configured to receive the documents read in by the reading portion; and

an informing unit;

wherein the reading portion is configured to read in surfaces of the documents that face in a predetermined direction, the reading portion reading in the surfaces of the documents in succession in a predetermined order along the stacking direction,

when the documents are stacked in the stacking direction on the supply tray with their one surfaces facing in the predetermined direction, the reading control portion controls the reading portion to sequentially read in the one surfaces of the documents along the stacking direction, to store data of the one surfaces of all the documents in the storage portion, and to discharge the documents on the discharge tray so that the documents are stacked on the discharge tray with their other surfaces facing in the predetermined direction, the reading control portion controlling the informing unit to enable the user to place the documents on the supply tray while maintaining the stacking direction of the documents and

while maintaining the other surfaces of the documents to face in the predetermined direction, and

wherein when the documents are stacked on the supply tray with their other surfaces facing in the predetermined direction, the reading control portion controls the reading portion to sequentially read in the other surfaces of the documents along the stacking direction and to store data of the other surfaces in the storage portion; and

the image forming control portion performs control in such a manner that image data for the one surfaces of the documents that is stored in the storage portion and image data for the other surfaces of the documents that is stored in the storage portion is read out alternately in page units and images are formed by the image forming portion.